## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01013 070932Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----035164 070937Z /21

O 070901Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0717

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL JERUSALEM 1013

**EXDIS** 

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UNSC, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT: FLAP OVER NORWEGIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM KAUKABA

1. UN SOURCE CALLED DPO MORNING APRIL 7 TO INFORM US THAT UNFORTUNATE FLAP HAD OCCURRED LAST NIGHT WHEN NORWEGIAN FORCES WITHDREW FROM TOWN OF KAUKABA (FOUR KILOMETERS NORTH OF IBIL ES SAQY) AROUND MIDNIGHT DESPITE ORDERS FROM UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS NOT TO MOVE. APPARENTLY NORWEGIANS HAD BEEN THREATENED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING APRIL 6 BY LOCAL PALESTINIAN FORCES. NORWEGIAN COMMANDER EVENTUALLY DECIDED THAT SITUATION WAS "TOO TENSE" AND FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN.

2. AS OF MORNING APRIL 7, NORWEGIANS HAD RETURNED TO KAUKABA AND TAKEN UP POSITION AGAIN. UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE IS ON HIS WAY BY HELICOPTER FROM JERUSALEM TO NAQOURA AND THENCE TO NORWEGIAN HEADQUARTERS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BRACE NORWEGIANS AND UNDERSCORE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF ANY SUCH UNAUTHORIZED MOVES.

3. IDF AWARE OF NORWEGIAN WITHDRAWAL AND HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UN HEADQUARTERS EARLY APRIL 7 TO COMPLAIN ABOUT NORWEGIAN BEHAVIOR.

4. COMMENT: WITH FIRST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM MARJAYOUN/ARQOUB AREA, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY TOWN OF KAUKABA, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11, THIS UNAUTHORIZED NORWEGIAN RETREAT, EVEN ON TEMPORARY BASIS, WAS DAMAGING TO UNIFIL CREDIBILITY. WE TRUST ERSKINE TALK TO NORWEGIANS WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING FURTHER INCIDENTS LIKE THIS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PALESTINIANS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, THREATS

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Subject: FLAP OVER NORWEGIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM KAUKABA

TAGS: MARR, LE, IS, XF, NO, UNSC, UNIFIL, PLO

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